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FM AMEMBASSY KAEUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5582

INFO AFTHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1427

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USCINCEUR VAIRINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS/PCE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 KAEUL 1376

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USEAO; DEPART-

MENT ALSO FOR NEA/FAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM

E.C. 12356: DECL: 12/19/92

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: OCTOBER 13 - 19, 1986

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REF: KAEUL 1344

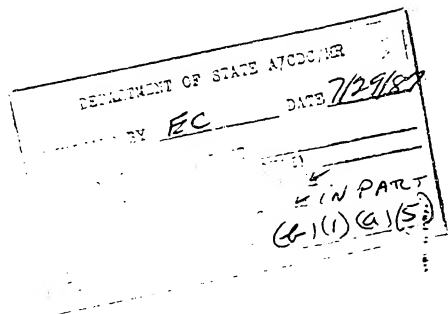
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES

AS NOTED.

3. SUMMARY: WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS IN TOWN TO



COVER THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS WERE KEPT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY AND ON A SHORT LEASH BY THEIR SOVIET/DRA HOSTS. JOURNALISTS WERE FLOWN TO SHINDAND AND KUNDUZ TO VIEW THE CEREMONIES. THE FORMER INCLUDED A PASS-IN-REVIEW BY SOME OLD AND NEWER MODEL TANKS AND INTERVIEWS WITH SOVIET TROOPS WHO HAD NEVER SEEN COMBAT. ON RETURNING FROM THE BASE TO KAEUL, ONE OF THE SOVIET

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AIRCRAFT CARRYING THE JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY NARROWLY MISSED BEING HIT BY A MISSILE. AT KUNDUZ JOURNALISTS NOTED THAT THE MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT WITHDRAWN NUMBERED MORE TRUCKS THAN TRACKED VEHICLES, SUGGESTING A UNIT OF LOW READINESS OR POSSIBLY A FALSE UNIT. JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED IN AN AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT WITHDRAWAL IN KABUL, RIDING ALCNG BRIEFLY IN THE CONVOY. A SOVIET GENERAL ACCOMPANYING THE JOURNALISTS TOLD THEM THERE WERE 80 TO 90,000 SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN. IN THE FINAL DAY CEREMONIES IN KABUL BABRAX KARMAI MADE AN APPEARANCE WHICH DREW A WARM REACTION FROM THE CROWD. IN AN UNRELATED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THE MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS INEXPLICABLY HAS BEEN REPLACED. ON OCTOBER 19 A SOVIET AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR THE KABUL AIRPORT, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF A "TECHNICAL FAULT." FINALLY, REPORTS SUGGEST WEAK SECURITY AND POOR

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LIVING CONDITIONS IN MEYMANEE, GARDEZ AND GHAZNI. IN PACHMAN, THE DPA MILITARY ESTABLISHED 30 POSTS IN A BID TO FIRM-UP CONTROL THERE BUT MUJAHIDIN UNITS CONTINUE TO OPERATE. RECENT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS IN FEYZABAD AND JALDAK REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN HEAVY

CASUALTIES. END SUMMARY.

## 4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS:

-- 13 OCTOBER: DURING THE AFTERNOON [REDACTED] PLAINCLOTHES SOVIET PERSONNEL COORDINATING AFGHAN CIVILIAN/MILITARY SECURITY UNITS ALONG THE STREET IN ADVANCE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS CONTINGENT TO COVER THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS. AT 2210 [REDACTED] TWO EXPLOSIONS, PROBABLY INCOMING ROCKETS, IMPACTING NEAR THE AIRPORT. BEGINNING AT 2230 AND CONTINUING UNTIL 2310, THERE WAS OUTGOING ARTILLERY ORIGINATING FROM BATTERIES NEAR THE AIRPORT. [REDACTED] TEN TO TWELVE EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA DURING THE PERIOD 2215 TO 2300.

-- 14 OCTOBER: BETWEEN 2625 AND 2710 [REDACTED] RANDOM OUTGOING ARTILLERY FROM THE AIRPORT. DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON SEVERAL DIPLOMATS REPORT HEARING A LARGE EXPLOSION (ONE ACCOUNT DESCRIBES TWO EXPLOSIONS) IN THE SHARF NAU AREA, POSSIBLY INCOMING ROCKETS. AT 2155 AND AT 2205 THERE WERE EXPLOSIONS IN THE AREA OF THE AIRPORT.

-- 15 OCTOBER: SHORTLY AFTER DAWN AND CONTINUING UNTIL 0730, WHAT APPEARED TO BE MULTIPLE, TUBE-LAUNCH PARACHUTE FLARES WERE OBSERVED OVER SOUTHEASTERN AND NORTHEASTERN KABUL.

(COMMENT: [REDACTED])

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INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

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END COMMENT.)

AT 2215 DIPLOMATS HEARD TWO EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA, POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF INCOMING ROCKETS.

-- 16 OCTOBER: [REDACTED] A ROCKET FELL INTO THE BAGH-E-BALA AREA (NORTHWESTERN KABUL) DURING

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THE EVENING.

-- 17 OCTOBER: DURING THE AFTERNOON (AS VISITING JOURNALISTS WERE RETURNING FROM KUNDUZ), MULTIPLE PARACHUTE FLARES WERE NOTED IN THE SKIES OVER NORTHWESTERN

KABUL (NOTE ENTRY FOR 15 OCTOBER FOR POSSIBLE PURPOSE OF THESE FLARES). [REDACTED] THAT AT

APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT FOUR ROCKETS LAUNCHED FROM PACHMAN IMPACTED NEAR THE KHARGA ROAD.

-- 18 OCTOBER: AT 2150 AND 2205, [REDACTED] SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE MICRORAYON AREA.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AT 1450 [REDACTED] THERE WERE TWO EXPLOSIONS IN PACHMAN VISIBLE FROM KABUL. AT 1510 THERE

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WERE THREE LARGE EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA,  
POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF ARTILLERY PRACTICE.  
5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

(A) (AIR): DURING THE WEEK, VISITING JOURNALISTS

TRAVELLING ABOARD AN-26'S WERE ESCORTED UPON TAKEOFF  
AND ON LANDING BY FOUR MI-24'S DISPENSING FLARES. ASIDE  
FROM MOVEMENT OF JOURNALISTS, AIR ACTIVITY FROM KABUL  
AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY MILITARY AIR MOVEMENT, WAS MARKEDLY  
REDUCED DURING THE WEEK.

-- 14 OCTOBER: AT APPROXIMATELY 2900, [REDACTED]  
SIX SOVIET MEDICAL HELICOPTERS STAGING FOR LIFT OFF  
FROM KABUL AIRPORT. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, FOUR AN-21(A)'S (L)(1)  
(WITH TAILGUNNERS) DEPARTED. (C)(5)

-- 15 OCTOBER: AT 1520 [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY  
TEN HELICOPTERS HEADING INTO KABUL FROM THE DIRECTION OF  
LOGAR.

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-- 16 OCTOBER: AT 1530, FIVE MI-3'S WERE SEEN HEADING  
WEST.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AT APPROXIMATELY 1115, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] (L)(1)(5)  
[REDACTED], AN AIRCRAFT (PROBABLY A HELICOPTER)  
CRASHED NEAR KABUL AIRFIELD. [REDACTED]  
CLAIM THE CRASH WAS DUE TO TECHNICAL REASONS. THE

AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN AFLAME IN MID-AIR. THE PILOT PARACHUTED  
SAFELY INTO THE MICRORAYON AREA BUT THE PLANE CRASHED NEAR  
THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, EXPLODING AND BREAKING INTO TWO SECTIONS.  
ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, A RECTANGULAR OBJECT WAS SEEN TO  
PARACHUTE SEPARATELY. IT WAS RAPIDLY RETRIEVED BY SOVIET  
MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(B) (VEHICULAR):

-- 12 OCTOBER: AT 1700, [REDACTED] AN AFGHAN CONVOY  
APPARENTLY HEADING TOWARD THE LOGAR ROAD. THE CONVOY  
CONSISTED OF SEVENTEEN TRUCKS, THREE OF WHICH WERE ARMED (L)(1)  
WITH ZPU GUNS, AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BTR'S. SOME OF (C)(5)  
THE TRUCKS CARRIED LIVESTOCK WHILE FOUR OTHERS HAD 122MM  
GUNS IN TOW.

-- 13 OCTOBER: A SOVIET CONVOY COMPRISING FOUR  
BMP-2'S, TWO BMP'S, THREE BTR'S AND TWO TRUCKS LEFT THE  
PALACE AREA AT 1700 AND DEPARTED SOUTH ON THE LOGAR ROAD. (L)(1)

-- 15 OCTOBER: [REDACTED] A SOVIET CONVOY  
RETURNING TO KABUL FROM LOGAR. THE CONVOY INCLUDED (C)(5)  
FOURTEEN BMD'S, EIGHT BMP'S, SIX BTR'S AND SIX COVERED  
TRUCKS.

-- 17 OCTOBER: AT 1130 [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY  
FIFTY COVERED TRUCKS PARKED FACING NORTH ON THE SALANG  
HIGHWAY. IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, [REDACTED] A TRUCK (L)(1)  
(C)(5)

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5584

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1429

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN 3E

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WAS SEEN HEADED NORTHWEST (TOWARD CANTONMENT) ON BLUE

MOSCOW STREET. THE 30-PLUS VEHICLE CONVOY INCLUDED

BTR'S, BRDM'S, BMP'S, BMD'S AND THREE OT-62C VEHICLES

(THE LATTER MARKED WITH AIRBORNE SYMBOLS). AT 1715

[REDACTED] TWENTY-FIVE LARGE TRUCKS ESCORTED BY BTR'S

MOVING FROM THE SALANG ROAD ON TO THE PERIMETER ROAD.

MOST OF THE TRUCKS APPEARED TO BE CARRYING COAL.

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-- 18 OCTOBER: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS A ROCKET

IMPACTED IN THE TAIMANI AREA (NORTHERN KABUL) DURING

THE EVENING.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AN AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT, WITHDRAWING

FROM AFGHANISTAN, PARADED THROUGH KABUL AT MID-DAY. (SEE

PARA 13D FOR DETAILS OF ITS COMPOSITION.) AT 1602 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A CONVOY OF FOURTEEN TRUCKS CARRYING

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS MOVING SOUTH ON DARULAMAN ROAD. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT SECURITY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN

LIGHTENED AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WITH ARMORED PERSONNEL

CARRIERS PARKED INSIDE THE EMBASSY COMPOUND NEAR THE

ENTRANCE AND ONE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE COMPOUND. AT

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1745 [REDACTED] A CONVOY OF 45 SOVIET VEHICLES  
INCLUDING SIX T-55 TANKS WITH WHEAT APPEARED TO BE  
ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AND SPARE WHEELS WRAPPED CANVAS; 4 PT-76'S;  
SEVERAL ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND SERVICE TRUCKS;  
PLUS OTHER MISCELLANEOUS VEHICLES. THE CONVOY CAME  
OFF OF THE SALANG ROAD AND MOVED INTO DESERT-LIKE LAND  
SOUTH OF THE KHAIR KHANA AREA.  
COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES:

5. FARYAB: [REDACTED] SOURCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REPORTS CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCE CAPITAL  
AND ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE ARE BLEAK. APPROXIMATELY  
42 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL HAVE FLED,  
MOSTLY TO KABUL. THERE IS A MONTH-LONG WAIT FOR AIR  
TICKETS TO KABUL THOUGH THEY CAN BE HAD ON THE BLACKMARKET  
IN TWO OR THREE DAYS AT A 300 PERCENT MARK-UP. AS OF  
EARLY OCTOBER, A SIR OF WHEAT (7 KGS) COST BETWEEN 400  
AND 500 AFGHANIS (UP FROM 350 REPORTED LESS THAN A MONTH  
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AGO), WHILE FIVE LITRES OF PETROL COST 300 AFGHANIS.  
THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ELECTRICITY IN THE CITY AND MEDICAL  
CARE, PROVIDED BY THE CITY'S YOUNG AND POORLY TRAINED HOS-

PITAL STAFF, IS VERY POOR. MEDICINES ARE SCARCE AND  
EXPENSIVE. MUJAHIDIN OPERATE RELATIVELY OPENLY IN THE  
CITY IN THE EVENINGS AND CONTROL MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.  
MUJAHIDIN INTERDICT ROAD TRAFFIC TO AND FROM MEYMANEH  
WITH IMPUNITY.

7. GHAZNI: A RECENT VISITOR TO GHAZNI REPORTED THAT

THE MUJAHIDIN WERE ACTIVE WITHIN THE CITY AT NIGHT.  
ON OCTOBER 10 MUJAHIDIN-PLANTED MINES DESTROYED AN ARMORED  
VEHICLE AND A JEEP WITH THE CITY  
8. KANDAHAR: IN KANDAHAR CITY [REDACTED]

FOUR OF THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL BAZAARS ARE UNDER MUJAHIDIN  
CONTROL. A [REDACTED] THAT MUCH OF THE OLD  
CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED IN STREET FIGHTING AND BY SOVIET  
ARTILLERY/BOMBING.  
9. PAKTIA: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN EARLY SEPTEMBER SOVIET AND DRA FORCES  
ATTEMPTED TO CLEAR THE ROAD BETWEEN GARDEZ AND SATO  
KANDAW PASS (33° 29' N 69° 22' E) BUT FAILED. A RECENT  
VISITOR TO GARDEZ CLAIMS THAT BECAUSE OF INCREASED  
FIGHTING IN THE AREA, THERE HAD BEEN A SURGE IN REFUGEE  
FLOW TO PAKISTAN FROM THERE. [REDACTED]  
NEAR KHOWST THE MUJAHIDIN ARE ABLE TO OPERATE WITHOUT  
DIFFICULTY EXCEPT FOR THE URBAN KHOWST AREA. A SEPARATE  
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DIPLOMAT REPORTED CLAIMS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE PROVINCE,  
OCTOBER 4. MUJAHIDIN UNITS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED ONE  
ARMORED VEHICLE, ONE HELICOPTER AND SEVERAL JEEPS.

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SNP-01 PAS-01 DS-01 DSI-00 SCT-02 /056 \*

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INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

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12. ZABOL: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON

ABOUT OCTOBER 7 THERE WAS INTENSE MUJAHIDIN-DRA  
FIGHTING IN THE AREA OF JALDAK (31° 55' N 66° 43' E)  
ON THE KANDAHAR ROAD. MUJAHIDIN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED  
AS LESS THAN TEN WHILE DRA KILLED AND WOUNDED NUMBERED  
65. MUJAHIDIN FORCES IN THE AREA ARE LED BY A MEMBER

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OF THE NABI GROUP NAMED GRANI (PHONETIC).

11. (A) KABUL PROVINCE: (KEARGA, PAGHMAN, KABUL CITY):

IN KEARGA, ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 17, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THREE HELICOPTERS CONDUCTING STRIKES AGAINST A  
RANGE OF HILLS JUST NORTH OF THE LAKE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUMMARY OF CURRENT FIGHTING  
IN THE PAGHMAN AREA: FIGHTING NOW CENTERS NEAR THREE  
PAGHMAN VILLAGES: FASHAI PAGHMAN (POSSIBLY A VILLAGE  
FIVE KMS SOUTHWEST OF PAGHMAN CITY); CHISHM-E-BULBUL  
(UNLOCATED) AND HUZ-E-MUSSAFAR (ALSO UNLOCATED).  
(NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: MUJAHIDIN STRENGTH IS NOW

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CONCENTRATED IN JALEZ-MAIDAN AREA, UNLOCATED.) FROM THIS POINT THE MUJAHIDIN CURRENTLY ARE DISPATCHING TEAMS OF 20 MEN TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PAGHMAN AREA. [REDACTED] THAT IN RECENT MONTHS REGIME

MILITARY FORCES HAVE ESTABLISHED APPROXIMATELY THIRTY BASES IN THE PAGHMAN HILLS, IN AN APPARENT BID TO HOLD THIS TERRITORY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT OVER THIRTY-FIVE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS OF PAGHMAN RELATED HOSTILITIES. ALSO IN THE PAGHMAN AREA ON OCTOBER 17, [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 300 AFGHAN SOLDIERS APPARENTLY MOVING FROM A BASE AREA ON THE KHARGA ROAD NEAR THE 8TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS WESTWARD INTO PAGHMAN. THE APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-TRUCK CONVOY INCLUDED TOWED GUNS (122MM) AND SEVERAL TRUCKS OF FURNITURE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT HOUSE SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED IN SOUTHERN KABUL NEAR THE JANGIAK FACTORY DURING THE EVENING OF 16-17 OCTOBER.

(B) KABUL PROVINCE (SHOMALI): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN THE SHAKA DARA AREA DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER, NINE DRA AND SOVIET VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED BY MINES; IN FARZA VILLAGE (5 KM SOUTHWEST OF ESTALEF), THIRTY PERSONS WERE KILLED IN A SOVIET ARTILLERY BARRAGE OCTOBER 14.

12. BADAKHSHAN: [REDACTED] IN EARLY

OCTOBER MUJAHIDIN UNITS ATTACKED THE TELEVISION STATION IN THE CAPITAL OF FEYZABAD, DESTROYING MUCH EQUIPMENT AND KILLING AFGHAN AND SOVIET PERSONNEL. AS A RESULT, SOVIET PLANES CARRIED OUT HEAVY BOMBING IN THE AREA FOR ONE WEEK. IN THE BOMBING, MUJAHIDIN UNITS REPORTEDLY KNOCKED DOWN THREE AIRCRAFT.

13. THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SOVIET REGIMENTS:

(A) ATMOSPHERICS: MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 140 INTER-

NATIONAL JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 41 WESTERN JOURNALISTS) WHO CAME TO OBSERVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS ARRIVED IN KABUL OCTOBER 13 AND DEPARTED OCTOBER 19. (FRG, JAPANESE AND DANISH JOURNALISTS ARRIVED EARLIER AND A FEW WESTERN JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY WILL REMAIN IN KABUL FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS.) DURING THEIR STAY, THE JOURNALISTS, TRAVELLING ABOARD AN-26'S, VISITED SHINDAND AND KUNDUZ TO WATCH WITHDRAWALS OF A TANK AND AN MRR REGIMENT RESPECTIVELY. IN KABUL THEY BRIEFLY JOINED A DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT WHICH PARADED THROUGH THE CAPITAL OCTOBER 19. THE VISIT WAS MARKED BY

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VERY TIGHT SECURITY, INCLUDING CAREFULLY GUARDED MOTORCADE  
ROUTES (WHICH PRODUCED MAJOR TRAFFIC SNARLS). THE CITY  
WAS FESTICONED WITH NUMEROUS BANNERS AND POSTERS IN DARI.

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|      | CIAE-00 | CODE-02 | H-21   | NSCE-00 | NSAE-00 | SSO-00  | HA-20 |
|      | L-03    | PM-10   | PA-01  | JME-01  | INRE-00 | ACDA-12 | SP-22 |
|      | SNP-01  | PRS-21  | DS-01  | DSE-00  | SCT-02  | /066    |       |

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5586

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1411

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCC//

USNMR SHAPE EE//INTAF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLENA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

FSTC INTEL CPS CHARLOTTEVILLE VA//AIAST-10-CM1//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 06 KABUL 1376

RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH. MOST WERE BOILERPLATE PROPAGANDA,

BUT ONE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA CALLED FOR "DEATH TO BLOODSUCKING

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." IN KARTE SEH AND KARTE CHAR AREAS OF THE

CITY, MANY POSTERS AND BANNERS WERE TAKEN DOWN AT NIGHT,

APPARENTLY BY MUJAHIDIN SYMPATHIZERS. AT TIMES RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE JOURNALISTS AND THEIR DRA/SOVIET HOSTS WERE

LESS THAN CORDIAL AS WESTERN JOURNALISTS CHAFED AT DRA/

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SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THEM ON A SHORT LEASH. SOME FRENCH

JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY CAME CLOSE TO BLOWS WITH THEIR

HOSTS WHEN TOLD THEY COULD NOT VISIT THEIR EMBASSY.

AMERICAN AND AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS WERE SPECIFICALLY

WARNED BY GUIDES ABOUT THE DANGERS OF WANDERING ABOUT

KABUL UNSCORTED. WESTERN CHIEFS OF MISSION AND OTHER

DIPLOMATS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO CONTACT

THEIR FELLOW NATIONALS WHO WERE CORDONED OFF AT THE HOTEL

INTERCON. JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF

DRA/SOVIET PRESS INTERVIEWS WHICH PRODUCED LITTLE NEWS,

INCLUDING A FINAL ONE ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 18 WITH

2JIB WHO READ RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM A

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PREPARED TEXT. AT HIS ELBOW A SOVIET FOLLOWED HIM CAREFULLY FROM HIS OWN TEXT. WHILE IN KABUL, A SOVIET GENERAL NAMED MIKHAIL BOGDANOV, WHO HAD JOINED THE JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS SAID THERE WERE BETWEEN "82 AND 90,000" SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(E) AT SHINDANE: JOURNALISTS WERE FLOWN TO SHINDANE

BY A CIRCUITOUS SOUTHERN ROUTE, APPARENTLY TO AVOID OVERFLYING THE HAZARAJAT, THE CENTRAL PORTION OF AFGHANISTAN WHICH IS UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL. AT SHINDANE JOURNALISTS WERE JOINED BY GENERAL SECRETARY NAJIB, PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR MOZHAEV AND SAW A TOTAL OF 94 TANKS (GUIDES IDENTIFIED THEM AS T-55'S AND T-64'S THOUGH KABUL TELEVISION SHOWED ONLY T-52'S) AND OTHER VEHICLES. SOVIET SOLDIERS PRESENTED FOR INTERVIEWS PROFESSED NEVER TO HAVE SEEN COMBAT NOR FOR THAT MATTER TO HAVE SEEN ANY MUJAHIDIN DURING THEIR TOURS IN AFGHANISTAN. JOURNALISTS TOLD US THAT MANY OF THE TROOPS APPEARED TO BE CENTRAL ASIAN AND VERY YOUNG. APPARENTLY BECAUSE

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OF A DELAYED DEPARTURE THE RETURN TRIP TO KABUL TOOK A MORE DIRECT ROUTING OVER THE HAZARAJAT. A SOVIET REPORTEDLY TOLD AN FRG JOURNALIST THAT DURING THE FLIGHT, THE FIFTH AN-26 IN THE GROUP NARROWLY MISSED BEING HIT BY A MISSILE. SEPARATELY JOURNALISTS REPORT THAT ABOARD ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE WAY THROUGH THE JOURNEY PASSENGERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO DRAW THEIR WINDOW SHADES AND THE PLANE'S LIGHTS WERE CUT. ONE JOURNALIST WHO PEEPED OUT NOTED THAT THE PLANE WAS DISPENSING FLARES (PRESUMABLY TO WARD OFF HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES).

(C) AT KUNDUZ: JOURNALISTS ARRIVED AT KUNDUZ OCTOBER 17

AMIDST TIGHT SECURITY TO OBSERVE THE WITDRAWAL. NAJIB WAS AGAIN ON HAND FOR THE CEREMONIES WHICH INCLUDED A PARTIAL PASS-IN-REVIEW. JOURNALISTS TOLD US THAT MOST OF THE VEHICLES WERE TRUCKS AND NOT TRACKED VEHICLES, SUGGESTING THAT THE UNIT WAS IN A LOW STATE OF READINESS OR CONCEIVABLY, THAT IT WAS A FALSE UNIT.

(D) IN KABUL: JOURNALISTS JOINED A DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE

REGIMENT BRIEFLY AS IT PARADED THROUGH KABUL TOWARD THE SALANG ROAD. THE 45-MINUTE CONVOY CONSISTED OF 42 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (BTR 80'S AND ETR 70'S) AND A LARGE NUMBER OF FUEL, COMMO AND OTHER TRUCKS. THE TOPS OF APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE TEL'S HAD LARGE CANVAS-COVERED BULGES (PRESUMABLY SAM-8'S AND ASSOCIATED RADAR) WHILE ONE-THIRD HAD LOW (THREE-FOOT) CANVAS-COVERED RECTANGULAR BLOCKS. VEHICLES ALL APPEARED NEW

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AND SHOWED LITTLE SIGN OF WEAR. AFGHAN ONLOOKERS WERE

LARGELY UNDEMONSTRATIVE. SOME OF KABUL RESIDENTS  
ASSEMBLED BY REGIME OFFICIALS TO STAND ALONG THE  
ROAD SIDE REFUSED ERA AND SOVIET FLAGS HANDED OUT BY  
REGIME PARADE OFFICIALS. OTHERS ACCEPTED THEM BUT FURLED

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ACTION NEA-11

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|------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| INFO | LOG-22  | COPY-21 | ADS-22 | AID-22  | INR-12  | EUR-22  | SS-22 |
|      | CIAE-22 | CODE-22 | R-21   | NSCE-22 | NSAE-22 | SSO-22  | HA-29 |
|      | L-23    | PM-12   | PA-21  | CVE-21  | INRE-22 | ACTA-12 | SF-22 |
|      | SNP-21  | FRS-21  | DS-21  | CSE-22  | SGT-22  | /356    |       |

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5557

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1412

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USCINCEUR VAIRINGEN GE

PT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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RQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO//

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C C N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 06 KABUL 1376

RATHER THAN WAVED THEM. AFGHAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD WESTERN DIPLOMATS OF BEING SIMILARLY ROUNDED UP IN THE STREETS AND TAKEN TO MOSQUES SO THAT JOURNALISTS COULD SEE "FULL MOSQUES" ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 (THE MUSLIM HOLY DAY).

14. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

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(A) A WESTERN DIPLOMAT OBSERVING THE DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT CONVOY THROUGH KABUL OCTOBER 19 NOTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONVOY A BLACK LIMOUSINE WHICH APPEARED TO BE CARRYING DRA PRESIDENT BABRAK KARMAL (OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW FOR MANY WEEKS). KABUL RESIDENTS WHO

SULLENLY LINED THE CONVOY'S ROUTE OF MARCH ERUPTED IN SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE AT THE SIGHT OF KARMAL WHO WAVED IN RESPONSE. EARLIER, ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMAT, IN CEREMONIES PRECEDING THE DEPARTURE OF THE REGIMENT, KARMAL'S APPEARANCE ON THE ROSTRUM DREW AN EXCITED RESPONSE FROM THE CROWD WHICH CHANTED HIS NAME. KARMAL WAS ALSO SEEN BRIEFLY IN TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE CEREMONIES -

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WELL AWAY FROM THE ROSTRUM CENTER POSITION, OCCUPIED BY NAJIB. SEPARATELY, A SENIOR BLOC DIPLOMAT CLAIMED THAT KARMAI RECENTLY WAS OFFERED THE POST OF AMBASSADOR IN WARSAW BUT REFUSED IT.

(E) IN AN UNEXPLAINED DEVELOPMENT, A NEW MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS WAS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 17. HE IS ABDUL JAMIL ZAREFI, GENERALLY REGARDED AS A NON-PARTY FIGURE. THE OUTGOING MINISTER, ABDUL WALI HUNDJAT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COURT.

THE DECISION TO APPOINT ZAREFI MAY HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED AT THIS SESSION DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND, AT SHINDAND AT THE TIME.

(C) AN AFGHAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT ON OCTOBER 15 THERE WAS A ROUND-UP OF SOME KHAD OFFICIALS WHO WERE TAKEN TO

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PAGE 03 KABUL 01376 05 OF 06 210317Z AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION FOR "QUESTIONING." AS OF OCTOBER 19, THE GROUP HAD NOT RETURNED. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS ACTION WAS LOCAL OR MORE WIDESPREAD. IN A SEPARATE BUT POSSIBLY RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DIPLOMATS NOTED THAT THE KHAD BUILDING

LOCATED OPPOSITE THE U.S. EMBASSY, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS BEEN MANNED BY PLAINCLOTHES (KHAD) OFFICIALS, AS OF OCTOBER 13 WAS MANNED BY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL (EITHER DRA MILITARY OR SARANDOI). FINALLY A SENIOR NON-WESTERN DIPLOMAT STATED THAT IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN GROWING FRICTION BETWEEN KHAD PERSONNEL ON THE ONE HAND AND MILITARY AND POLICE (SARANDOI) ON THE OTHER.

15. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS: THE DRA NATIONAL AIRLINES

WHICH HAD HOPED TO BEGIN REGULAR FLIGHT SERVICE TO WEST EUROPEAN CITIES SOON (LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT), HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES. BECAUSE THE AIRLINE NOW OPERATES UNDER THE NAME BAKHTAR RATHER THAN UNDER THE NAME UNDER WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY INCORPORATED (ARIANA) AND BECAUSE OF OTHER MANAGEMENT CHANGES, IT MUST RENEGOTIATE ITS INSURANCE POLICIES. THIS, COUPLED WITH KNOWN RELUCTANCE OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON BAKHTAR'S PROJECTED ROUTE TO RECEIVE THE AIRLINES AT THIS TIME, INDICATES THAT INAUGURATION OF FLIGHTS TO THE WEST WILL BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL WELL INTO 1987. EALUM

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